

# EUDORA AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2018 NEWSLETTER

January 2018, Volume #30  
Written & Edited by Ben Terwilliger



## Message from the Executive Director: Ben Terwilliger



*Ben Terwilliger, pictured in the museum's addition (L) and in The Bahamas (R) thinks 2017 was a "thumbs-up" year!*

Happy New Year everyone! I am proud to report that 2017 was a year of unprecedented success for the **Eudora Community Museum**. Four of the most notable accomplishments for our museum in 2017 include: (1) Completing all construction on the museum's new \$100,000 rear access addition, (2) Completing all rehabilitation work on the northern half of our museum's second story, (3) Raising the funds to successfully repair and restore the historical original City bell at the Eudora City Hall, and (4), Serving as the first museum in the state of Kansas to host the traveling "Water/Ways" exhibit from the prestigious Smithsonian Museum.

In 2018 we are thankful to have support from Douglas County and the City of Eudora. We are thankful to have a dedicated Board of Directors, supportive and attentive membership, amazing volunteers, and a community that continues to genuinely support and value our important work.

We have big plans for 2018! We are excited to announce that we will host a traveling exhibit on the history of **"Immigration in Douglas County"** in

the Fall of 2018. In 2018 you can expect us to remain steadfast in our support for the Kansas Humanities Council (KHC). The KHC significantly helps our museum and all of Kansas. If federal funding for the KHC is reduced or eliminated, our museum, Eudora and Kansas would all suffer. Therefore, I strongly urge everyone reading this to contact their federal representatives, and to tell them to support important KHC/Humanities funding!

If you are a member, thank you for your support! Your membership dues are VERY important; we would struggle mightily without them. And if you're not a member, please consider joining! (See page 5 of this Newsletter for membership info.)

-Ben Terwilliger (Executive Director)

## Hosting Smithsonian's *Water/Ways* Exhibit: "A Dream Come True!"



*Eudora Summer Camp kids enjoy the "Water/Ways" exhibit.*

We are very pleased to share with you that our stint as the host of the traveling Smithsonian "Water/Ways" exhibit was a total success!! It was a

profound honor to be the first museum in Kansas to host this incredible exhibit. On June 24<sup>th</sup>, we held a grand opening ceremony for the exhibit. 275 people attended this ceremony! As part of the ceremony's festivities, we also opened the 1966 time capsule from the Eudora (Nottingham) Elementary School.

During the six weeks we hosted "Water/Ways," our museum welcomed 1,302 visitors. A majority of the visitors who visited the "Water/Ways" exhibit were from out of town. These 1,302 visitors spent ample money in downtown Eudora, helping local businesses. Pam Staab, the owner of "Eudora Market on Main St." reported that her business recorded its greatest day ever for sales on June 24<sup>th</sup>, thanks to the crowd our museum attracted.

In addition to hosting "Water/Ways," our museum built a companion exhibit on Eudora's relationship with water that is the best exhibit we have yet created. We hosted seven water related programs in Eudora. In terms of donations, our museum received \$1,640 in funds during the six weeks we hosted "Water/Ways." Those funds are a combination of donations, new membership dues and Museum Store sales. We are so very thankful for the Kansas Humanities Council, the Smithsonian Museum and the National Endowment for the Humanities for making our dreams of hosting a traveling Smithsonian exhibit come true!

### Continued Rehab Work on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Story



*Benny Dean, Larry Carden and Bill Gordon hard at work!*

The year of 2017 was a very productive year for rehabilitation and construction at our museum! In early 2017, our new \$100,000 rear addition opened to the public for the first time. This rear addition houses stairs and an elevator and it makes our second story easily accessible from our first story. The first six months of 2017 were also spent finalizing the rehab work on the northern half of our

second story. This portion of the second story would host the "Water/Ways" exhibit in June of 2017. Therefore, we had a strict deadline to complete all work! Thankfully, we did complete all rehab work just in time to host "Water/Ways."

Our all-star volunteers Benny Dean and Bill Gordon worked exceptionally hard rehabbing the northern portion of the second story. In 2017 they installed a wood ceiling, a wood floor, doors, trim and they also painted and plastered the whole room. The end result of Benny and Bill's hard-work is incredible and beautiful. They were able to preserve all existing historical elements, and the new construction perfectly complements the existing historical elements. Benny and Bill have donated thousands of hours of free labor towards the rehabilitation of our museum building since 2013. They have saved us hundreds of thousands of dollars. Without their help, we would not be where we are today. As always, please thank Benny, Bill, Larry Carden, and everyone else who has helped us rehabilitate our historic 148 year old building!

In 2018 we plan to work on rehabbing the southern portion of our second story. We also hope to make significant improvements at the rear of our property and in our backyard. We plan to build a cement patio and wheelchair ramp for our backdoor. We also hope to build sidewalks and parking-spots.

### We Need Your Help (And There Are So Many Ways You Can Help Us)!!

It is very easy for you to make a huge impact on our museum. And it doesn't require much!! The three big ways you can help our organization are to:

1. Make a financial contribution to the EAHS.
2. Donate time/labor on rehabbing the EAHS.
3. Donate unique Eudora area artifacts/archives.

We are grateful for all monetary donations made to the EAHS! Every donation truly makes a difference, and every donation helps us preserve the History of the Eudora area. **For info. on how to donate, please refer to page 5 of this newsletter.**

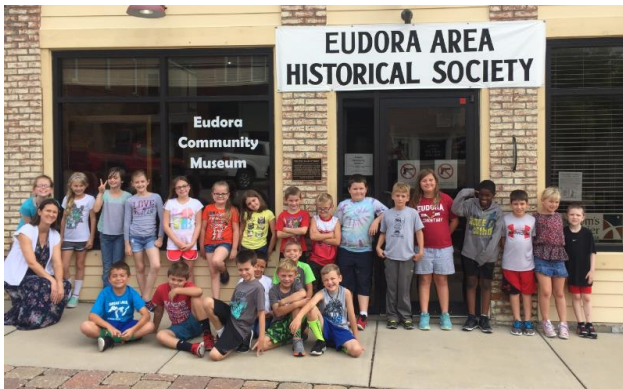
The operational expenses of the EAHS are 100% funded by private donations. Therefore, the annual membership dues are enormously helpful. We

operate on a small and conservative budget. While paying your dues this year, please consider giving additional funds for our operational expenses.

We need to raise significant funds for rehab work in 2018. We estimate that we will need \$25,000 to finish the rehab work, and to construct the rear cement sidewalk/ramp/patio/parking-lot in 2018. We currently have \$6,000 reserved for the above listed projects. Therefore, we need \$19,000. We plan to pursue several grants to help fund these projects in 2018. But we also plan to pursue private fund-raisers to obtain these vitally important funds.

Please consider adding the EAHS to your Estate planning as well. The EAHS is a great opportunity for you to pass on your values and Eudora's History to subsequent generations. The EAHS is a registered 501c3, all donations are tax deductible.

### Museum Visitation



*3<sup>rd</sup> grade students at the museum, September, 2017.*

Thanks to the “Water/Ways” exhibit, and our constant efforts to attract visitors to the museum, we set a new visitation record in 2017! We welcomed over 2,600 visitors to the museum in 2017, which is twice as many visitors as we welcomed in 2016.

Around 210 children visited the museum in 2017 through field trips, school groups and youth groups. The entire 3<sup>rd</sup> grade from Eudora Elementary School visited the museum in 2017 for field trips, which included activities at the museum and a guided walking tour of historic downtown Eudora.

In the Fall of 2017, we participated in the “Great Kaw Adventure Race.” Around 45 contestants in the race were challenged to complete a difficult “scavenger hunt” in the museum. We had around 200 people visit the museum during Eudorafest on

October 7. And on October 28, we handed out over 2,000 pieces of donated candy to trick-or-treaters during Eudora's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Trunk or Treat event.

In December of 2017 the museum hosted a very special exhibit: “Back to the 80s.” This exhibit was created by 7<sup>th</sup> grade students in Ryan Jacobs' Social Studies classes at the Eudora Middle School. The exhibit displayed hundreds of unique 1980s artifacts and attracted around 200 visitors to the museum.

### 4<sup>th</sup> of July Festival & Fundraiser

On July 4, 2017, Board members Debbie Carden and Pennie Neff launched our first 4<sup>th</sup> of July festival & fund-raiser. The event helped us generate funds and it also helped us add many new members. We're very thankful for Debbie, Pennie and everyone else who made the event a huge success!

### Priceless Piece of Eudora History Donated



Dr. Holladay of Eudora donated a powerful and stirring artifact to our museum in 2017. The artifact is a tombstone from the 1860s for Isabel Johnson. Isabel was tragically only 7 years old when she died on Dec. 3, 1861. Isabel was Black; her parents, Henry and Martha Johnson were born into slavery in Virginia. Both of Isabel's parents were freed and migrated to the Eudora Township around 1860.

The Johnson's had many children, most of whom survived into adulthood, and farmed around Eudora for a living. Henry died in 1880, Martha died in 1908, both died in Eudora. Even though Isabel died in 1861, the land for her grave was not purchased by her parents until 1866. Child graves in Eudora cemeteries in the 1860s cost \$2. It is possible that when Isabel died, her parents didn't have enough money to purchase a grave, and had to work and



save enough money for five years in order to purchase her burial spot.

This tombstone was found on private property, but, it likely originated from Eudora's Southwest Cemetery, which was the cemetery used by Eudora's once large Black community. We are unsure how the tombstone became separated from the Cemetery, or where Isabel is buried. But, as long as we preserve and display Isabel's tombstone, we will preserve her memory for eternity.

### Remembering Fern Long



*Fern Long and family with Eudora Mayor Tim Reazin, 2015.*

Fern Long, the founder and the first President of the EAHS sadly passed away on May 9, 2017 at the age of 101. The Long family very generously listed our museum as one the places where memorial donations could be made in Fern's honor. We received \$1,859 in donations in memoriam of Fern.

Fern was a wonderful woman, who will forever be remembered for all that she did for the Eudora community. Without her work for Eudora's history, we would not have a Eudora museum today. Fern was a sweet, caring, thoughtful and intelligent woman. She was a dear friend and represented the very best of Eudora. We will miss her enormously.

### Treasurer's Report

*(As of January 10, 2018)*

#### EAHS Operational Accounts:

Checking	\$915.16
Savings	\$4,009.76

Total Operational: \$4,992.92

**Museum Rehabilitation Account:** \$6,181.27

### 2018 EAHS Historical Programs

(All programs are free and will be held at the **Eudora Community Center:** 1630 Elm Street.)

#### January 18, 7:00pm at Eudora Comm. Center

*"Immigration in Kansas,"* by Dr. Matthew Sanderson. Sponsored by the KHC. Program related to new "DGCO Immigration" exhibit at museum.

#### March 15, 7:00pm at Eudora Comm. Center

Program is TBD, likely a KHC sponsored program.

#### May 17, 7:00pm at Clearfield Farmhaus

*"Clearfield Tour,"* includes Clearfield Farmhaus & possibly Clearfield School, Clearfield Church.

#### July 19, 7:00pm at Eudora Comm. Center

*"Eudora and the Oregon Trail Part 2,"* by Craig Voorhees. New research and findings presented.

#### September 20, 7:00pm at Eudora Comm. Center

*"Immigration in Eudora & DGCO,"* program related to the new "DGCO Immigration" exhibit.

#### November 15, 7:00pm at Eudora Comm. Center

Program is TBD.

### EAHS Elections

#### Officers:

President:	Steven Neis (joined Board 2002)
Vice President:	Benny Dean (joined Board 2013)
Treasurer:	Jim Harris (joined Board 2004)
Secretary:	Stephanie Jones (joined 2017)

#### Area Directors:

Clearfield:	John More (joined Board 2010)
Eudora:	Debbie Carden (joined 2014)
Fall Leaf:	Kevin Reetz (joined Board 2014)
Hesper:	Bill Gordon (joined Board 2013)
Prairie Center:	Pennie Neff (joined Board 2016)
Weaver:	Steven Neis (joined Board 2002)

### Message from the President

I would like to thank the EAHS members for electing me to a 5th term as President. It's an honor to serve another term. We had a great year and great success with our Waterways exhibit. I look forward to another great year! - **Steven Neis, President**

**To join or renew your membership, or to make a donation, please provide the following information and return this form with your payment to:**

**Eudora Area Historical Society  
720 Main Street, PO Box 158  
Eudora, Kansas 66025**

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Name\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

City\_\_\_\_\_State\_\_\_\_\_Zip\_\_\_\_\_

Phone No.\_\_\_\_\_Email\_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Type (check one):**

☐ Individual      \$10.00

☐ Business      \$50.00

☐ Sustaining      \$50.00

☐ Lifetime      \$200.00

**Please check all that applies:**

☐ New Member    ☐ Membership Renewal    ☐ Donation

☐ Cash      ☐ Check    Amount enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

**Other Donations:**

☐ I wish to make a donation to the EAHS operational general fund.

☐ Cash      ☐ Check    Amount enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_

☐ I wish to make a donation to help with the ongoing museum building rehab efforts.

☐ Cash      ☐ Check    Amount enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_

## Information for the Eudora Community Museum

### Location

720 Main Street, Eudora, KS.

### Hours

Typically open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 11am to 5pm.

### Contact

Executive Director:  
Ben Terwilliger

[EudoraHistory@gmail.com](mailto:EudoraHistory@gmail.com)

785-690-7900

### Mailing

Eudora Area Historical Society  
PO Box 158  
Eudora, KS 66025

### Online

City of Eudora's website, direct link:  
[www.cityofeudoraks.gov/100/Eudora-Community-Museum](http://www.cityofeudoraks.gov/100/Eudora-Community-Museum)

**"Like" the EAHS on Facebook!**

**EAHS Instagram/Twitter:**  
**@EudoraHistory**

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**PO Box 158**  
**Eudora, KS 66025**

### EAHS Newsletter 2018

